



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

Washington State  
Department of Natural Resources

# **HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN**

## **HCP ANNUAL REPORT**

including

**DATA & DOCUMENTATION**

**July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000**

Fiscal Year 2000

Annual Report to the Services:

- **National Marine Fisheries Service**
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

For the period of July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000

**Disclaimer:** Portions of this report were not available in their final electronic version. In some cases, missing sections were scanned. In other cases, modified draft versions, which look slightly different from the original print versions, were substituted. Although the formatting may look different from the print version of this report, in no case were the data changed in any way.

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- ❑ **Correspondence, 2/29/00, USDepartment of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service**  
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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
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## **HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN**

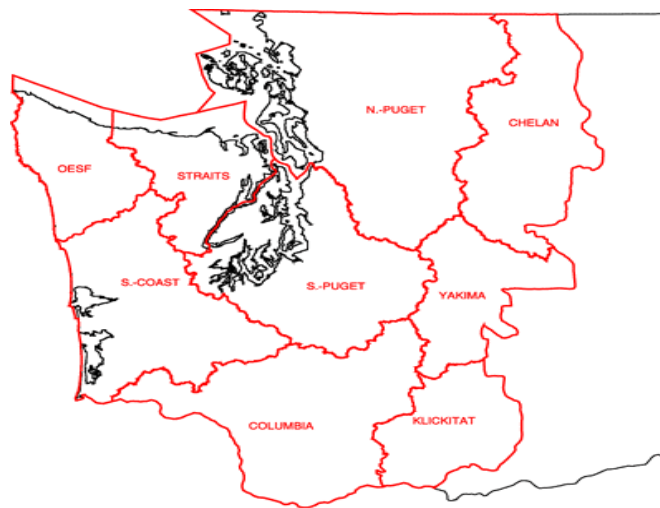
### **Annual Report to the Services including Data & Documentation**

**July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000**  
Fiscal Year 2000

#### **□ INTRODUCTION**

The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is a forest management plan that applies to approximately 1.6 million acres of forestlands managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The HCP applies to DNR forestlands that are within the range of the northern spotted owl. In general, the area includes all DNR forestlands west of the Cascade crest and those on the eastern slopes of the Cascades, from the Canadian border to the Columbia River. A habitat conservation plan is an approach for compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that is allowed under federal statutes. A HCP enables a landowner to comply with ESA restrictions on forest management activities by providing areas that conserve habitat for listed species. The HCP enables DNR to harvest timber with responsible, habitat preserving and enhancing forestry techniques.

#### **□ HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN: PLANNING UNITS**



**Westside HCP planning units:** Olympic Experimental State Forest, South Coast, Columbia, South Puget, North Puget and Straits

**Eastside HCP planning units:** Chelan, Klickitat and Yakima

The Habitat Conservation Plan includes habitat management strategies for ESA listed species and for unique habitats. Some of the major provisions of the HCP are described below.

### **HCP Conservation Planning Strategies**

- **ESA Habitats Protected:** HCP forest management practices focus primarily on habitat conservation and habitat enhancement strategies for species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). DNR's habitat management plan identifies specific habitat conservation strategies and designates habitat areas for northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet and for riparian dependent species such as bull trout and salmon. The objectives and strategies of the HCP are designed to conserve and enhance habitats that are scientifically appropriate for the support of multiple species, including those listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- **Multiple Species Protected:** Additionally, the conservation strategies developed for the HCP were designed to provide appropriate habitat protection for many other species that are not currently listed as endangered or protected under the ESA. DNR's HCP is one of a small number of habitat conservation plans with approved ESA multi-species protection. The Department intentionally approached forest management in this manner in order to avoid future forest management interruptions due to new ESA listings that could disrupt harvest planning. In addition, the HCP provides specific habitat protection appropriate for numerous state-listed species of concern.
- **Unique Habitats Protected:** Protection of specific habitats includes identification of critical caves, talus slopes, wetlands, and nesting sites for many species. Future adaptive management changes will modify management practices to address species and habitat needs that are identified through research and monitoring. Therefore, the HCP is actually a dynamic, scientifically-based management planning tool.

### **□ SUMMARY & FY2000 HCP ACCOMPLISHMENTS: July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000**

**FY2000 Annual Report Summary:** This report covers the first full fiscal year of operations for those forestlands managed according to the conservation strategies adopted under the Habitat Conservation Plan. The HCP and the associated Implementation Agreement, approved in January 1997, required compliance as of January 1999. The IA is between DNR and the federal agencies responsible for ESA compliance, specifically the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS). The two-year period allowed for DNR's transition planning and for development of operational guidance for the HCP conservation strategies. In actuality, transition planning required more time than originally anticipated. Forest management practices are now required to comply with HCP commitments for all timber sales and non-timber resource sales and agreements.

**FY2000 DNR accomplishments:** Some accomplishments for this reporting period are noted below.

- All timber sales on 1.6 million acres of HCP-managed forests complied with the HCP.
- More forest specialists, such as geologists, advised foresters in timber sales preparation.
- The HCP program for reporting non-timber activities was developed and implemented.
- The Forest Resource Inventory System (FRIS), critical for HCP data, is 85% completed.
- Marbled murrelet research, required for murrelet management strategies, moved forward.
- Staff were trained on new thinning techniques for forest management.



- New timber sales included culvert upgrading and road improvements.
- Public use impacts decreased through re-locating campgrounds from streamside locations.
- A training program was implemented for eastside Dispersal and NRF forest management.
- Collaborative work with the Services (USFWS and NMFS) on HCP reporting requirements and operational field applications of HCP strategies continued.

**ESA listings since HCP approval:**

- Westside: Since the January 1997 signing of the HCP, several salmonid species and bull trout are now listed under the Endangered Species Act. Compliance with the riparian strategies identified in the HCP allows the Department to continue forest management planning without restrictions from new ESA listings. The following list identifies bull trout and salmonid species specifically covered under the Department's HCP as of the end of FY1999 (June 30, 1999).
  - o Columbia River basin segment of bull trout west of the Cascade crest added to the USFW Incidental Take Permit (ITP), 1/26/99.
  - o Coastal bull trout and Puget Sound segments of bull trout (effective upon any future listing) added to the USFW ITP, 4/9/99.
  - o ITP was issued by National Marine Fisheries Service on 6/17/99 for:  
Lower Columbia R (LCR) steelhead, LCR chinook, Puget Sound chinook, Hood Canal summer-run (HCS) chum, CR chum and Ozette Lake sockeye.
- Statewide: The lynx was listed under ESA during this reporting period. Formalization of the incidental take amendment granting DNR coverage for the lynx, per the HCP, is in process.

**SUMMARY:** The HCP is a 70 to 100 year forest management plan. During the initial years of the HCP, establishing the basic foundation and planning tools for the long-range achievement of the habitat conservation strategies is proceeding appropriately. The forest management plan allows the Department to comply with the Endangered Species Act while providing revenue through forest management programs, such as timber harvesting. DNR forest management programs provide revenue for educational and institutional beneficiaries, as well as for the timber producing counties, through DNR management of the Forest Board Trust lands.

The Department of Natural Resources is a leader in complex, large-ownership forest management. The HCP is a tool that facilitates implementation of the Department's many management responsibilities. Additionally, the plan allows for appropriate and flexible management changes over time. The Department is committed to the multiple goals of forest management as envisioned in the Habitat Conservation Plan.

# Chapter 1: Management Planning Objectives

## Chapter 1 - MANAGEMENT PLANNING OBJECTIVES

The HCP was developed by the Department with the cooperation of the federal agencies who are responsible for landowner compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The Endangered Species Act allows a landowner to enter a Habitat Conservation Plan agreement with designated federal agencies. The HCP and Implementation Agreement (IA) were approved by the Department and the federal agencies responsible for landowner compliance, specifically the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The HCP and IA were formally signed in January 1997, and as a result of the agreements, DNR was issued an Incidental Take Permit (ITP). The definition of “incidental take” includes actions that harass or harm identified wildlife species or cause harm to their habitat.

Under a habitat conservation plan, habitat mitigation is identified for the landowners’ forest management activities that potentially impact federally listed species’ habitat. The conservation strategies and related habitat mitigation that DNR developed allows the Department to continue forest management activities, including harvesting and approved non-timber forest resources activities. The HCP permits the Department to harvest timber in exchange for habitat preservation and enhancement in strategically identified locations. Therefore, the Department commits to certain long-range conservation strategies and long-range forest stand compositions that support species survival.

### ☐ HCP Conservation Strategies:

#### ☐ Northern spotted owl habitat conservation strategy

An important long-range objective of the HCP is to maintain and create appropriate spotted owl Nesting, Roosting and Foraging (NRF) areas and Dispersal areas. At this early point in the 70-year HCP planning program, habitat development trends are not observable in the field, however future monitoring efforts will confirm progress toward the 70-year projected habitat objectives. Changes in HCP acreage in the initial years, such as those in the chart below, can reflect updates in inventory systems and do not necessarily reflect habitat alterations.

#### Baseline Comparison of Acreage in Designated Areas

FY2000 NRF & Dispersal Areas Compared to 1997 Baseline							
HCP PLANNING UNITS: ACRES							
Designated Management Acres	Chelan	Columbia	Klickitat	North Puget	South Puget	Yakima	Total Acres
NRF: Jan 1997	5,647	54,157	20,096	109,409	2,648	13,567	205,524
NRF: June FY2000	5,722	53,196	20,913	111,141	2,648	13,567	207,187
Dispersal: Jan 1997	0	38,645	79,095	16,068	71,492	8,332	213,632
Dispersal: June FY2000	0	33,634	79,095	15,391	75,370	8,332	211,822

Source: DNR Geographic Information System 9/00

#### NOTE:

- o There are no designated NRF or Dispersal management areas in the OESF, Straits or South Coast HCP Planning Units.
- o Acreage measurements are rounded and may include approximations.
- o Information is subject to appropriate adjustments and adaptive management changes over time.
- o Changes in acreage during this three year period may be due to management activities, land exchanges, or updates and refinements in inventory data.

### **Silviculture Management Activities in Designated NRF and Dispersal Areas**

A wide variety of forest habitat conservation and enhancement objectives are achieved through silviculture activities. Silviculture management activities include many forestry activities, ranging from timber thinning and harvest methods, to subsequent site preparation and reforestation work. Management activities in riparian areas are limited at this point in time, however, activities will increase over time on a phased-in basis. Details of the activities summarized below are presented in Appendix A.

<b>Silviculture Management Activities in Designated NRF Areas, FY 2000</b>				
Total NRF Acres	Harves <sup>1</sup>	Site Preparation <sup>2</sup>	Vegetation Management <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>
<b>207,187 acres</b>	<b>2,153 acres</b>	<b>391 acres</b>	<b>4,295 acres</b>	<b>2,949 acres</b>

<b>Silviculture Management Activities in Designated Dispersal Areas, FY 2000</b>				
Total Dispersal Acres	Harvest <sup>1</sup>	Site Preparation <sup>2</sup>	Vegetation Management <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>
<b>211,822 acres</b>	<b>1,858 ac</b>	<b>375 acres</b>	<b>1,395 acres</b>	<b>2,156 acres</b>

<sup>1</sup> Harvest methods during this reporting period were partial cuts, clear-cuts with appropriate leave tree retention, selective logging, and uneven-aged management.

<sup>2</sup> Site preparation during this period included appropriate herbicide application, mechanical methods and pile and burn actions to control undesirable vegetation prior to planting.

<sup>3</sup> Vegetation management includes herbicide application and hand cutting to promote young stand growth.

<sup>4</sup> Other activities include hand planting and pre-commercial thinnings which promote future growth.

### **☐ HCP Conservation Strategies**

#### **☐ Marbled murrelet habitat conservation strategy**

The FY2000 HCP murrelet program is gathering habitat data and information in order to develop a long-term conservation strategy. Potential murrelet habitat areas are deferred from harvest until habitat relationship studies are completed.

#### **☐ Riparian habitat conservation strategy**

Riparian area conservation strategies contribute to salmonid habitat maintenance and restoration, and conservation of other aquatic and riparian species. DNR has not harvested in riparian areas during FY2000 except for limited acres in the Olympic Experimental State Forest. The Department is finalizing riparian management guidelines for managing riparian areas. The riparian management directives are anticipated to be finalized during FY2001.

The Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF) is managed under distinct HCP strategies. Riparian management activities in the OESF during FY2000 accelerated habitat creation.

❑ **Multi-species habitat conservation strategy**

This habitat conservation strategy includes the objectives of the spotted owl, murrelet and riparian strategies, plus appropriate conservation management of unique habitats such as talus areas and caves in addition to conservation of specific species nesting sites or habitats areas.

**Geographic objectives:** The basic conservation strategies discussed above are implemented according to geographically appropriate objectives and applications, as identified below.

- ❑ Geographically distinct strategies apply in the Olympic Experimental State Forest.
- ❑ The westside planning units have multi-species protection for incidental take.
- ❑ Eastside incidental take coverage is limited to federally listed wildlife species. Riparian areas on the eastside do not have incidental take coverage for currently listed fish.

- ❑ **Future Forest Conditions:** The HCP is a forest management plan that preserves and creates appropriate habitats through silviculture techniques. The Plan is anticipated to apply for a 70 to 100 year period. The HCP presents a significant challenge for forest managers, in that forest management activities today and tomorrow create the forests for the next generation.

**Forest Inventory Data:** The last HCP ANNUAL REPORT, for FY1999, included charts containing both current and projected decadal age-class inventories for each region and for the Olympic Experimental State Forest. These charts illustrate projections from the sustainable harvest calculation that was adopted by the Board of Natural Resources in 1996. The accuracy and usefulness of projected future forest stand conditions, which were based on generalized inventory information, is of questionable value. Both DNR and the Services acknowledge that DNR's inventory data is more accurate now than it was in 1996. The forest inventory system has been updated and significantly expanded since 1996. The first HCP ANNUAL REPORT (1998), expressed caution regarding the sustainable harvest data information:

...It must be remembered that the numbers involved in this process are the results of a modeling process. It is expected that, with more detailed information, improved models, better understanding of limitations of the assumptions used in the modeling, and other data refinements these numbers will be modified in future sustainable harvest modeling efforts... (FY1998 HCP ANNUAL REPORT, P2)

**Status of Future Forest Conditions Charts:** The Department anticipates revising the 1996 sustainable harvest calculation beginning in FY2001. The new information will more accurately reflect forest inventory information and habitat planning objectives. Revised Future Forest Conditions charts may be presented in future HCP ANNUAL REPORTS if it is determined by the Department and the Services that age-class data appropriately demonstrates forest composition goals. Forest structures that result from the conservation strategies may be better documented in a forest identification system that is not age-class defined. The HCP signatories have long recognized that age-class does not accurately define the preferred habitat that ESA species need for successful survival.

- ❑ **Adaptive Management:** The HCP conservation strategies and future adaptive management changes are anticipated to provide a forest with certain preferred habitat conditions and structures. It is reasonable to assume that future scientific research will bring greater clarity to both species requirements and silviculture techniques and possibilities. Over time, we will likely discover that we had much to learn about forest habitat development and growth.

## Chapter 2: Management Activities

## Chapter 2 - MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

**Background:** As discussed in the HCP, forest management activities are categorized as either reportable (significant activities that have the potential to alter habitat) or as non-reportable (activities determined not to have potential to alter habitat). The HCP Annual Report focuses on reportable significant activities, such as timber harvesting, and specific non-timber and road management activities. Significant activities are those that could result in incidental take due to habitat removal or alteration. The definition of “incidental take” includes actions that harass or harm identified wildlife species.

- **Non-incidental take activities:** Many DNR forest management activities do not reach the threshold level of incidental take and therefore, do not require HCP reporting documentation. Generally speaking, unless trees are removed in non-riparian areas, incidental take does not occur as a result of authorized forest management activities. Examples of these Non-incidental take activities include planting seedlings, pruning brush along trails, gathering forest greens such as salal, thinning young saplings to the appropriate density, or maintaining established recreational sites. Activities in riparian areas are more restricted due to the area’s inherent vulnerability to habitat alteration, and are managed according to program-appropriate practices.
- **Incidental take activities:** Timber harvesting involves potential incidental take activity, therefore, HCP restrictions and reporting requirements apply. An example of an activity that does not remove trees but that could cause incidental take is loud equipment noises during breeding season, in close proximity to nesting listed species. This action can lead to incidental take, because breeding is disturbed. Therefore, the HCP restricts certain forest management activities, both harvesting and non-harvesting, in order to minimize both alteration of forest habitats and impacts on forest inhabitants.

**Reportable HCP Activities:** The HCP Annual Report reviews forest management reportable activities, focusing on three general areas:

- **Timber harvesting and silviculture management,**
- **Authorized non-timber forest management activities,** and
- **Road-related management activities.**

### □ **Timber Harvest/Silviculture Management Activities:**

Under HCP forest management, timber harvesting is frequently performed in locations and with techniques that both produce harvest revenue and restore or enhance forest quality. These forest-management activities include various types of timber harvesting and forest vegetation enhancement:

- timber harvesting (including commercial thinning)
- site preparation
- regeneration
- vegetation management
- pre-commercial thinning/pruning
- fertilization

NOTE: The chart on the following page shows acres completed for each silviculture activity and the HCP planning unit in which the activity occurred. Appendix A presents a brief explanation of these activities and a detailed timber harvesting/silviculture report.

### Timber Harvest/Silviculture Management Activities: Details --- FY2000

Harvest & Silvicultural Activity	Acres of Management Activity by Planning Unit									
	Chelan	Columbia	Klickitat	N Puget	OESF	S Coast	S Puget	Straits	Yakima	TotalAcres
<b>Timber Harvest Type</b>										
Clear cut		3002	400	3112	269	3435	1282	1760	71	13331
Late rotation thinning		380	25	129		231		97		862
Phased patch regeneration		6				166				172
Salvage cut				10	107	70		20		207
Seed tree intermediate cut			39						149	188
Selective product logging		449		268		192	348	614		1871
Shelterwood intermediate		234	25					16	306	581
Shelterwood removal cut		46								46
Smallwood thinning		981	85	45	691	473		57		2332
Temporary retention							36			36
Two aged management		6			174	47				227
Uneven-aged managemt		1423	151						937	2511
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6527</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>3564</b>	<b>1241</b>	<b>4614</b>	<b>1666</b>	<b>2564</b>	<b>1463</b>	<b>22,364</b>
<b>Forest site preparation</b>										
Aerial herbicide		637								637
Ground herbicide		72	538							610
Ground mechanical			620							620
Pile and burn		42	35			149		23		249
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>1193</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2116</b>
<b>Forest regeneration</b>										
Hand planting	913	2691	733	2867	808	3680	2006	1115	257	15070
Natural regeneration					25					25
<b>Total:</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>2691</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>2867</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>3680</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>1115</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>15095</b>
<b>Vegetation managemnt</b>										
Aerial herbicide		1164		938		100	80			2282
Ground herbicide	912	353	46	1171	6	463	135		257	3343
Hand cutting		528	3	4691	636	3625	1632	1366		12481
Underburning						40				40
<b>Total:</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>2045</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>6800</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>4228</b>	<b>1847</b>	<b>1366</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>18146</b>
<b>Other</b>										
Pre-commercial thinning	288	410	324	2686	4170	1688	577		764	10907
Pest mgmt. - aerial b.t.			3618							3618
<b>Total:</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>3942</b>	<b>2686</b>	<b>4170</b>	<b>1688</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>14525</b>
<b>Forest fertilization</b>										
Aerial fertilization				2406						2406
Ground fertilization				456						456
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2862</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2862</b>

Source: Planning & Tracking System 10/00

Silviculture includes many forestry activities, ranging from timber harvest methods and subsequent re-forestation efforts to a wide variety of forest habitat conservation and enhancement techniques.



□ **Authorized Non-timber Forest Management Activities**

Numerous non-timber management activities occur on DNR-managed forest lands. The chart in Chapter 3 identifies all non-timber activities, including both actions that do not result in habitat impacts and those that potentially could alter forest habitat. According to the HCP and Implementation Agreement, the level of impacts to the forest habitat as a result of authorized non-timber activities, is expected to remain consistent over time. Amendment provisions in the HCP apply if the level of impacts increases.

Some of these activities produce revenue for the trust beneficiaries and others benefit citizens and stakeholders, without loss of trust value. These activities include:

- Utility rights-of-way
- Specialized forest products
- Valuable material sales (rock/sand/gravel)
- Prospecting leases/mining contracts
- Oil and gas leases
- Grazing permits/leases
- Communications site leases
- Recreation site construction/reconstruction
- Rural leases

NOTE: The total number of FY2000 program-specific sites/leases/permits are presented in Chapter 3. The Chapter 3 chart compares current year's activity level with the baseline FY1996 year. Explanations of authorized non-timber management activities are presented below. Appendix B presents potential habitat altering non-timber management activities.

Utility rights-of-way grant permission for utility companies to cross DNR-managed lands with cables, power lines, or pipelines. Large pipeline and power line expansion requests are subject to full environmental and legal review and approval. The trust beneficiaries receive compensation for the granted rights-of-way.

Specialized forest products refers to permits and leases sold for numerous forest-related vegetation activities such as gathering Christmas boughs, florists' materials (ferns and salal), and Christmas tree-growing leases. These activities generate revenue for the trusts and income for individual gatherers while causing no adverse impact to the forest. The Department selectively grants the permits and leases to prevent habitat degradation.

Valuable material sales (rock/sand/gravel) generate income for the trusts, often while providing road-building materials necessary for harvest-related road construction. Any actual excavation and extraction activities are subject to SEPA compliance, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) requirements, Clean Water Act requirements, and Surface Mining Act requirements.

Prospecting leases/mining contracts preclude any actual mineral extraction operations. Prospecting leases allow investigation for locations of mineral deposits. The investigative actions do not alter habitat. A lease is converted to a mining contract if a permittee wants to commence mining operations. All plans for mining operations are granted only with SEPA review and full compliance with HCP commitments and all other mining statutes and restrictions. There are no active mining operations in HCP-managed areas.

Oil and gas leases allow the lessee to explore for underground deposits, usually by conducting underground “echo” testing. The exploratory phase does not alter habitat and is conducted in compliance with HCP commitments. Loud noises are restricted by location and seasonal breeding restrictions. Any active plan of operation completes SEPA review and complies with all other mining statutes. Oil and gas deposits under DNR forests can be accessed from adjacent private properties through new diagonal drilling processes.

Grazing permits are selectively allowed in HCP-managed forests. These activities are allowed if managed in compliance with HCP commitments and as a secondary forest use.

Communications sites are leased facilities located on higher elevation hilltops. Private and public entities attach equipment to tower structures. A site usually includes a tower and a small un-manned operations facility which houses transmission equipment. This program provides revenue for the trust beneficiaries and provides communications infrastructure sites for the public.

Recreation site construction and reconstruction includes many public use locations and trails in DNR-managed forests. Under terms of the HCP, DNR will try to relocate campsites currently in streamside locations to higher ground, when practical. Many public use locations are leased by other recreation agencies, under long-term leases. Development of new recreation sites seldom occurs. Recreation site management activities in HCP-managed areas often involve replacement of footbridges on a trail system.

Rural leases are facilities within DNR-managed forests. As an example, the state Corrections Department leases land in several locations for prisons and camps. Any new lease will comply with HCP commitments.

#### □ **Road Management Activities and Operations**

Road related management practices are important potential habitat altering activities. Roads activities addressed in the HCP and reported on in this Annual HCP Report include:

- Planning
- Design
- Construction/reconstruction activities
- Decommissioning
- Fish Barrier Repair
- Maintenance & Abandonment Plans

NOTE: Road planning, design, construction and maintenance are discussed on the following pages.  
The summary road chart lists total miles and road management activities by HCP planning unit.  
Road maintenance data base project report, for FY2000, is in Appendix C.

#### **Road Planning**

Most roads constructed (98%) on DNR-managed lands are built by timber sale purchasers for use when harvesting timber sales. The Department plans, designs, supervises and monitors road building and usage. Road planning efforts during this reporting period focused on minimizing road construction

impacts. The Department actively interacts with scholars and consulting experts to ensure that up-to-date technology are incorporated into DNR's road management program. Additionally, the Engineering Division actively trains engineers and foresters in HCP-appropriate road planning techniques.

## Road Design

The majority of road design strategies targeted as appropriate for habitat conservation identified in the HCP are standard operating procedures for DNR engineers. Additional refinements in road design quality and construction practices implemented during this reporting period include:

Unstable slopes or fish bearing streams: Roads constructed in these areas now require design work to be completed or supervised by a licensed Professional Engineer.

During this reporting period, DNR hired West & Associates, a highly respected hydraulics engineering firm, to conduct an extensive "fish passage and culvert design" training session. This training session was a week-long training course, attended by approximately 50 DNR engineering staff and management.

Sedimentation control: Engineering training includes targeted techniques for designing control measures during road construction.

Construction generally consists of some or all of the following activities: clearing, grubbing, debris disposal, excavation, embankment, installation of drainage structures, manufacture and application of surfacing material and installation of sedimentation control measures.

### Construction Related Road Management Activities---FY2000

CONSTRUCTION---RECONSTRUCTION----DECOMMISSIONING---CULVERT REPAIR										
HCP Planning Units										
Miles of Activities	Chelan	Columbia	Klickitat	North Puget	OESF	South Coast	South Puget	Straits	Yakima	Total Miles
<b>Total Road Miles</b>	95	1538	668	2067	1546	1430	856	540	484	<b>9224</b>
<b>Construction</b>	0	31	9	34	10	56	12	9	12	<b>169</b>
<b>Reconstruction</b>	57	26	10	42	7	78	24	16	6	<b>209</b>
<b>Decommissioning</b>	0	25	2	50	27	39	14	7	8	<b>171</b>
<b>Culverts -- fish barrier repairs</b>	20	2	0	9	15	7	3	0	2	<b>40</b>
<b>Maintenance &amp; Abandonment Plans</b>	0	0	0	240	2	9	0	0	106	<b>357</b>

Reconstruction generally consists of activities listed above for construction, but to a lesser degree. In particular, excavation and embankment quantities are minimal.

Decommissioning consists of activities required to put roads in the following state: no culverts or fills left in live stream crossings, drainage provided for in a manner that not requiring regular maintenance, goal of making the road impassable to all vehicles.

Culverts are water-crossing structures with earth over the top.

## **Road Maintenance**

All road maintenance is planned and conducted by trained personnel who implement the Department's Road Standards and comply with all applicable Forest Practices road maintenance procedures.

## **Road Reporting Activities**

New road relocations and de-commissioning activities were included in the FY2000 road management activities. Road re-locations are to upland areas away from stream banks.

Road Maintenance & Abandonment Plans are being developed by Region engineers throughout the HCP planning units. DNR anticipates that RM&A plans will be completed within the 5-year planning period identified under Forest & Fish guidelines.

The RDMS inventory project, completed during this reporting period, identifies historic road data information. The HCP Planning Unit Road Maintenance Data Base Chart, presented in Appendix C, represents information in the RDMS Project Report as of June 30, 2000.

## **Future HCP Planning Activities:**

HCP road commitments are consistent with Forest Practices requirements and include significant new "Forest & Fish" requirements. Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans (RM&AP) are required by recently adopted Forest Practices' "Forest & Fish" regulations. The Department has five years to complete the planning for M&APs. Progress on this requirement is included in the Road Management Activities chart in Appendix C.

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### Chapter 3 - EVALUATION of Potential Non-Timber Impacts vs.1996 Baseline Level

Non-Timber Resources Activity Comparison		
Activity	1996 Base Year	FY2000
Utility Rights-of-Way (1)	9 R/Ws over 3.3 miles	No significant R/W activity
Specialized Forest Products (2)	* 360 Western green leases/permits on 135,000 ac; * 14 Xmas green sales/leases/permits on 5,000 acres; * 8 Xmas tree leases on 409 ac; * 20 misc. medicinal, cone and transplant sales/permits.	* 320 Western green leases/permits on 128,000 acres; * 20 Xmas green sales/leases/permits on 6,000 acres; (2) * 8 Xmas tree leases on 409 acres; * 15 misc. medicinal, cone and transplant sales/permits.
Valuable Material Sales	28 pits on 281 acres; 17 sales involving 222 acres; 25 direct sales on 50 acres.	8 pits (Board) sales on 90 acres; 5 sales (region sales) on 34 acres; 12 direct sales on 22 acres.
Prospecting Leases/Mining Contracts	4 leases on 360 acres; 15 contracts on 3,650 acres; None active.	0 leases on 0 acres; 7 contracts on 1,056 acres; None active.
Oil and Gas Leases (3)	43 leases on 13,196 acres; 1 active sale.	6 leases on 2,552 acres*; None active.
Grazing Permits/Leases (4)	Eastside--25 on 105,980 ac. Westside--15 on 1,074 acres.	Eastside -- 25 on 105,980 acres Westside --11 on 640 acres.
Communications Site Leases	56 sites with 288 leases.	60 sites with 302 leases.
Recreational Sites	119 sites on 2,456 acres.	126 sites on 2,252 acres.
Rural Leases	90 leases on 5,792 acres	92 leases on 5,870 acres

NOTES: (1) Approximately 3,625 Right-of-Way (R/W) easements have been granted since statehood. This includes both utility and road R/W. Approximately 12% of the leases are for utility R/W, i.e. approximately 435 leases. Road R/W data is inventoried in the road management system.

(2) The total number of floral and Christmas greens permits and leases varies from one year to another. Region management determines the number of permits granted to a site, therefore, the level of impacts should not increase from the 1996 *de minimus* level although the total sites may. The decrease in permits in FY2000 from FY1999 reflects ambiguity in HCP compliance directives that caused some Regions to deny permits. The HCP Compliance Monitoring Plan, adopted during FY2000, clarified both permitting processes and reporting requirements, enabling regions to efficiently proceed with permit issuance.

(3) Oil and gas leases can vary significantly in number from year to year due to market influences. Oil and gas leases are traditionally granted by DNR on an every-other-year schedule. Therefore, the FY2001 period may include more leases. Leases do not mean ground disturbance. Habitat alteration can only occur after further planning and permitting approvals.

(4) Grazing permits/leases are activities that are secondary uses in forested woodlands. The HCP does not apply to agricultural land leases or to grazing activities that are the primary land use activity.

## Chapter 4: Monitoring, Implementation

## Chapter 4: IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING---FY2000

**Introduction:** Monitoring is a critical aspect of any new management system. The Habitat Conservation Plan is a new system of conservation strategies implemented in a working forest. The conservation strategies are products of research and monitoring efforts, and are subject to adaptive management changes as a result of subsequent research and monitoring. Monitoring efforts include three programs:

- Implementation Monitoring --- answers the question, “did we implement the HCP”.
- Effectiveness Monitoring --- answers “do implemented activities produce results”.
- Validation Monitoring --- answers “do results effect species as expected”.

An Implementation Monitoring plan was required by the HCP prior to implementation of the HCP. The plan was approved by the Services in the first HCP ANNUAL REPORT to the SERVICES for January 1997 to June 30, 1998. During FY2000, DNR completed development of the non-timber implementation compliance documentation and monitoring program. Additionally, the Department conducted staff training in most regions on these non-timber management activities.

The DNR/HCP Implementation Monitoring Plan requires that specific timber and non-timber management activities that could significantly alter specific habitats are reviewed by management, are appropriately mitigated according to HCP habitat conservation strategies and are implemented correctly. The implementation monitoring program involves a sample review of planned and completed HCP management activities that have the potential to adversely impact habitat if not implemented appropriately. The sampled activities are monitoring to ensure appropriate HCP implementation.

### **Overview of Implementation Monitoring Results:**

The FY2000 Annual Report to the Services contains data and information on the first complete fiscal-year reporting period in which all management activities were required to comply with HCP commitments.

All timber sales sold during FY2000 were required to comply with HCP conservation strategies.

Non-timber management activities that occur in HCP-managed forestlands that have the potential to adversely impact habitat, if not implemented appropriately, are required to comply with the HCP.

The following review of timber and non-timber activities reports the results of implementation monitoring sampling for FY2000, as conducted in compliance with the Implementation Monitoring Plan adopted in 1998.

### **Timber Product Sales FY2000 Results:**

**Overview:** Compliance with HCP commitments and requirements is reviewed at several points during the planning and implementation of every timber sale. Additionally, timber sales compliance officers in the field regularly inspect active timber extraction operations.

**Planned sales:** timber sales are habitat altering activities, therefore, implementation documentation of HCP compliance is required for all sales.

- All planned sales during this period included HCP commitments, and
- each sale was reviewed and approved by region management for HCP compliance, and
- each was further evaluated by the Division Product Sales team before approved for sale.

**Sold sales:** All timber sales sold after January 1, 1999 complied with HCP agreements. Those sold from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000 were reviewed for HCP compliance by region management and by Forest Resources Division staff. Additionally, each active



sale is monitored for compliance by a timber sale officer, who field reviews every active sale at least once a month.

**Product Sales Team Implementation Monitoring:** The monitoring schedule identified in the 1998 Annual Report required a Division team, in conjunction with Region management and staff, to conduct field reviews of a sampling of timber sales. Several sales per region (2 to 5) were document and field reviewed by a management team composed of Division and Region participants.

- Review Purpose: Determine if sales sampled demonstrate that the HCP conservation strategies were implemented consistent with HCP intent. Issues given focused review included riparian strategy as currently identified (i.e. buffer width), leave tree component, and identification of murrelet habitat.
- Review Results: Every HCP planning unit, managed under HCP commitments, participated in the joint management review. The conclusion of the extensive review of planning and implementation was that all sales reviewed correctly complied with the intent of the HCP.

Examples of Findings: The review finds that, “...Decisions are based on the wider view: legal requirements plus the best resource protection. The region chooses to err on the side of conservation....”

**Conclusions:** Throughout FY2000, timber sale planning was more time-consuming and complex than it was prior to adoption of the HCP. Some operational components of the HCP are easily identified in the field. Other operational aspects clearly need further study and clarification. The standard reaction of management and staff were to observe more restrictions and limitations on management activities than may actually be necessary for HCP compliance, without clear direction on the appropriate course of action. For example, the Division/Region timber sales review process identified some issues that needed clarification before effective management could proceed, suggestions included:

- clarify desired outcomes of older stand thinnings,
- clarify “habitat enhancement”, and
- identify flexibility for local conditions when applying procedures.

#### **Non-Timber Management Activities FY2000 Results:**

HCP-approved non-timber management activities that occur in HCP-managed forestlands were a source of confusion and frustration at the beginning of this reporting period. The programs consistently operated on the conservative side, such as reporting activities not needing reporting and disallowing activities allowed under the HCP. The Division HCP program actively worked to clarify the HCP implementation and reporting process, and to reassure region staff that unwarranted paperwork and restrictions could be eliminated.

The FY2000 reporting period was the “shakedown” reporting period for non-timber activities. We achieved noteworthy accomplishments, specifically, understanding implementation and processing of two groups of non-timber activities:

- 1) those existing activities that pre-dated the adoption of the HCP, and
- 2) planning and reporting for new non-timber activities in HCP-managed areas.

In actuality, very few new non-timber management activities that could cause potential incidental take were proposed for implementation in HCP- managed areas. Under agreements reached with the Services, Appendix B is intended to enumerated significant non-timber activities for the reporting period. What the Department has found is that few such activities are allowed. When they are permitted, the purpose is to improve a deleterious existing condition such as streambank instability. It is iimportant to note, that any activity that requires a hydraulic permit or a forest practices permit is identified in Appendix B as standard procedure. Therefore, all activities in Appendix B are not habitat altering.

The HCP Implementation Documentation Program binder was developed, approved, and taught to each Region in a two-hour session. Region staff who work with any HCP non-timber program attended the training session and followed-up with frequent communications. Changes and adaptive management decisions may result in a different implementation and reporting system in future Annual Reports.

**Summary of Non-timber Resources:** The FY2000 non-timber forest management activities did not increase the level of habitat impacts that were identified by the Services in 1996 as the *de minimus*, or baseline level. The following are summary reports of the program-specific management activities for FY2000:

□ **Specialized Forest Products:**

Floral greens' permits were issued in compliance with the HCP, and consistent with the HCP Implementation Compliance Program. There were no significant new permits issued. Region staff and the Special Forest Products Manager appropriately conducted oversight of the permitting process. Floral greens' permits and acreage decreased from the FY1996 level, both in number and in total acreage.

The number of Christmas tree permits/leases and medicinal permits were consistent with 1996 level of impacts.

□ **Valuable materials sales** (sand/gravel/rock):

No new significant pits or sales occurred, therefore, no specific HCP Implementation Compliance monitoring was required. Routine Region and Olympia oversight of existing sites continued as appropriate.

Valuable materials sales (sand/gravel/rock) were below the 1996 levels.

□ **Mineral extraction and oil/gas leasing:**

No new plans of operation were activated for mineral extraction or oil/gas leasing, therefore, no specific HCP Implementation Compliance monitoring was required. Oil and gas prospecting leases were granted, however no ground disturbance is allowed under the leasing contract. A site-specific plan of operation is required from the lessee before any ground disturbance is allowed. If a plan of operation is submitted, the proposed plan must comply with HCP requirements, in addition to complying with several other required permits.

Total leases and contracts were much lower than the 1996 level. The total number of leases varies tremendously from one year to the next due to market speculation, and DNR's traditional every other year auction schedule.

□ **Communication sites:**

No new communication sites were developed, therefore, no specific HCP Implementation Compliance monitoring was required. Routine Region and Olympia oversight of existing sites continued as appropriate.

The total number of communication sites and acreage are slightly higher than the 1996 number, however, the level of impacts to the habitat has not increased. Many communication sites are on upper-elevation mountain tops, above the timber line.

□ **Recreational sites:**

New camping facilities were opened upland from Cold Creek as a result of DNR re-locating the camping sites from Cold Creek Campground. The Campground pre-dates the adoption of the HCP. The pre-HCP existing camping facilities were streamside. The new location provides parking and camping outside the area of potential stream impacts. All activities complied with HCP commitments.

Total recreational sites remained approximately the same as FY1996 totals.

**IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING:** Some or all elements of the following activities were reviewed.

**Timber sales:**

Central Region: Dutch Master, Pehl, Bowneck Thinning, Canoe Launch.

Northeast Region: No timber sales in HCP areas, only activity in HCP area was on the Methow tramway.

Northwest Region: Hutch 3, Conestoga Thinning, Zinger, County Line, Brooks Crossing, Trumpet, Down Under, Old Top, Tower, Rocky Roost, Millenium, Red Star, Full Sail,

Olympic Region: Stevens Cleanup, Promised 8300, Truck Trail, Lower Mill Thinning/OESF, Drum Line Thinning/OESF, Compliance officer Inspection Report spreadsheet for winter/spring 2000

South Puget Sound Region: Little Primo, Majestic Pole

Southeast Region: Iceberg, Cement Foundation, Johnson Road, Klickitat Heights

Southwest Region: Cardemon, Cougar Rose, Coda, Casey Final, Red Ridge,

**Non-Timber Activities Results:**

Implementation monitoring forms were completed on the following; several of these do not meet the criteria that warrant implementation monitoring but are reported here for general information:

Northwest Region: Residential cable easement, road use permit

Olympic Region: Bedrock #1 Road/Culvert/Basin/OESF, Road Abandonment PA-I-1000, Road Abandonment J-5000 vicinity, Upper Clearwater Campground streambank protection, hydraulics permit for fishing platform monitored by Ecology. Work in Lyre River campground included upgrading stream protection which wildlife scientist monitored.

South Puget Sound (Unit)Region: Oak Patch Preserve burn monitored by wildlife scientist, hydraulics permits for two trail bridge replacements monitored by Ecology.

**Planning & Tracking System Monitoring:**

Olympia silviculture staff field-inspect a sampling of completed management activity sites to verify that data entered into the Planning & Tracking (P&T) system was completed and entered accurately. The silviculture team completes about 50 field site-visits per each reporting period. The sites the team visits are those completed in the previous reporting period.

Findings: The conclusion of the silviculture site-visit team is that "...every activity reported was actually done in the field...". The data and field inspections determined that the P&T system is operating as intended, with data input correctly and within a relatively timely manner.

## Chapter 5: Monitoring, Effectiveness & Research

## **Chapter 5: MONITORING & RESEARCH**

### **EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING and RESEARCH PLAN--- FY2000**

Both the Effectiveness Monitoring Plan and the Research Plan are currently in development. Research plans and effectiveness monitoring plans are related to HCP implementation activities, as well as to other scientific efforts. As more forest management activities are implemented in compliance with HCP commitments, habitat research and effectiveness monitoring will likely broaden in scope. The Department is actively involved with other agencies, academics, and private interests in sharing scientific knowledge and expertise.

#### **□ Marbled Murrelet --- Update**

Identification of the habitat and recovery needs of this endangered seabird is difficult to research and monitor since it is a small seabird, with behavior patterns that complicate detection. Marbled murrelets nest in large tall trees, are active during early morning darkness and can fly at speeds of 30 miles per hour.

Long-term conservation strategies for the marbled murrelets are dependent on further research of forest habitat requirements. During the interim period, the Department is deferring timber harvest in areas judged as potential habitat. When surveying is completed, some areas will be released for harvest.

#### **FY2000 Results:**

Initial surveys indicate that murrelet habitat acreage on DNR-managed lands is higher than previously estimated. The range of this species is approximately 50 miles inland from saltwater. Coastline forests near the Pacific, the Straits and Puget Sound are potential marbled murrelet habitat. Surveys and habitat relationship studies are continuing.

#### **□ Spotted Owl --- Update**

The habitat criteria identified in the HCP for both Nesting, Roosting and Foraging (NRF) habitat and dispersal habitat are more easily identified in the field than are those of the murrelet. Further scientific research and Effectiveness Monitoring will likely result in appropriate modification of current owl habitat criteria. Currently, habitat is generally identified in the GIS data system by age-class.

#### **FY2000 Results:**

During the development of the HCP, and the subsequent work to identify operational guidance for habitat identification and management, the use of forest stand “age-class” data as a surrogate for owl habitat was repeatedly identified as a problem. Preferred northern spotted owl habitat is not an even-aged forest. Definition and operational guidance for dispersal habitat is an especially vexing problem, and may ultimately result in a range of guidance. Work on “habitat definition clarification” continued during FY2000.

The Department is actively studying forestry techniques that can hasten creation of older forest qualities. It is anticipated that various silvicultural techniques can decrease the amount of time necessary for forests to develop into NRF habitat. Work in this area of research is in process.

□ **Riparian Conservation Strategy --- Update**

Historic logging operations in the Pacific Northwest caused extreme damage to streams and stream-banks. Riparian areas, used as transportation corridors, were some of the first areas to be logged. Several salmon species originally inhabiting these areas are extinct or on the endangered species list.

HCP-managed forestlands west of the Cascade crest have incidental take permit (ITP) coverage for appropriate forest management activities in riparian areas. DNR and the Services, consistent with approved agreements, are anticipated to finalize riparian management operational guidance during FY2001.

**FY2000 Results:**

The specific guidelines for riparian management are currently under management review, with finalization anticipated during FY2001. Timber harvesting in riparian areas is deferred until the guidelines are developed and approved. Habitat enhancement that does not have the potential to adversely alter riparian habitat, such as selective re-planting, occurs as appropriate in limited locations. Some necessary riparian management activity that could occur during the interim includes streambank restoration and/or stabilization. Failure to perform needed streambank activities could result in adverse stream degradation.

**VALIDATION MONITORING --- FY2000**

**Update:**

Validation monitoring evaluates cause-and-effect relationships between habitat conditions resulting from implementation of the conservation strategies and the species these strategies are intended to benefit. Planning for validation monitoring is proceeding, and will focus on the Olympic Experimental State Forest planning unit.

Planning includes documenting spotted owl and marbled murrelet use of areas managed to provide nesting habitat, and salmonid use of streams that cross DNR-managed lands. Results of validation monitoring are not anticipated until several years into the future. DNR's scientific support management and staff are currently developing the Validation Monitoring Plan.

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## Chapter 6: Transactions

## **Chapter 6: LAND BASE CHANGES ---Transactions**

The land base covered by the HCP is dynamic and subject to minor changes. Lands covered by the HCP can be added or deleted from the HCP for a variety of reasons and by several mechanisms. The mechanisms include land sales, exchanges, transfers and purchases.

The most common reasons for lands to be removed from the land base are:

- Repositioning of trust assets through sale, transfer or exchange,
- Change of use, such as forest to agriculture or commercial,
- Removal from the HCP land base due to adjustments caused by reconciliation of actual uses versus those incorrectly documented at the time the HCP was signed. Removal of agricultural lands from the HCP forest land base is a prime example. Removals of this type will decrease over time, and in fact, no removals of this type were initiated in FY2000.

The data presented in Appendix D enumerates the number of acres, by HCP planning units, that were acquired or disposed of due to transactions during this reporting period.

The data presented in Appendix D also identifies the total cumulative acreage changes due to transactions that have occurred in each HCP planning unit since January 1, 1999.

The data presented in Appendix D also includes a series of maps of each HCP planning unit, illustrating the lands “in-coming” and “out-going” to the HCP land base for FY2000. Details of each transaction are included in the appendix.

### **REPORT CHANGES:**

A change to future Annual Reports was agreed upon at the HCP Annual Meeting after a review and discussion of the land base maps:

- It was decided at the Annual Meeting to eliminate maps in the HCP Annual Report that demonstrate acres moved into and out of HCP areas. These maps are intended to demonstrate the results of exchanges, sales and purchases. Individual maps presented in the FY1999 Annual Report do not clearly demonstrate what is reported. The scale of exchanges does not clearly present information on a standard 8.5” X 11” page map.

It was agreed to eliminate the series of HCP Planning Units maps, and to consider demonstrating the total land base changes due to purchases, exchanges and sales in the 5-year HCP DNR/Services review meeting. Possible formats could include GIS-based overhead transparencies, very large maps, or any other format that is of a scale to demonstrate the changes. Additionally, the parties could decide that no type of mapping is useful to reach the desired mutual objective of identifying trends or issues of concern.





# **FY2000 HCP ANNUAL REPORT to the SERVICES**

## **Attachment: History: Documents and Summary of Reporting Agreements**

- **Correspondence, 10/14/99, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,**  
**Issue:** HCP qualifies as a comprehensive plan under Federal Power Act,  
regarding hydropower projects
  
- **Correspondence, 2/29/00,**  
**United States Department of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**Issue:** HCP language revision to enhance habitat through silviculture  
treatment
  
- **Memorandum, 3/1/00, Department of Natural Resources,**  
**Issue:** Fulfillment of HCP requirement for implementation documentation  
and reporting process
  
- **Summary of Reporting Agreements: FY2000, FY1999 & FY1998**

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20426

OCT 14 1999

OFFICE OF HYDROPOWER LICENSING

U. S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE  
WESTERN WA OFFICE

OCT 19 1999

LACEY, WA  
RECEIVED

Gerry A. Jackson, Manager  
United States Department of the Interior  
North Pacific Coast Ecoregion, Fish and Wildlife Service  
Western Washington Office, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102  
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Mr. Jackson:

Thank you for your letter dated October 1, 1999, providing the Commission with a copy of the Final Habitat Conservation Plan dated September 1997 that you negotiated with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

Based on staff review, the following document qualifies as a comprehensive plan under section 10(a)(2)(A) of the Federal Power Act (FPA).

Washington State Department of Natural Resources. 1997. Final Habitat Conservation Plan

Any future river-related plans prepared by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources must be filed with the Commission in order to be considered in the Commission's FPA section 10(a)(2)(A) analysis of hydropower projects in Washington State.

Sincerely,

*Edward A. Abrams for*

Carol L. Sampson  
Director  
Office of Hydropower Licensing

cc: Public Files



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

North Pacific Coast Ecoregion

Western Washington Office

510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102

Lacey, Washington 98503

Phone: (360) 753-9440 Fax: (360) 753-9008

FEB 29 2000

RECEIVED  
MAR 02 2000

LANDS & RESOURCES DIVISION  
47016

Julie Boyer, Department Supervisor  
Department of Natural Resources  
1111 Washington Street Southeast  
Post Office Box 47016  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7016

Dear Ms. Boyer:

This letter is in response to your February 8, 2000, letter requesting concurrence on the modification to the Habitat Conservation Plan Implementation Memoranda Number 1 of January 20, 1998, regarding take of northern spotted owls. In your letter, you reference the discussion on November 17, 1999, regarding management of nonhabitat.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) did not intend to restrict Department of Natural Resource (DNR) activities within nonhabitat. It is our understanding that DNR requested input from its Regions regarding future plans in the near term, and used that information and wording within the Habitat Conservation Plan Implementation Memoranda Number 1. The FWS had no reason at that time to question the language that stated "Information provided by region staff indicates no intent of harvesting within 20 of the circles prior to January, 2007. Regions should comply with this stated intent." However, the FWS agrees with your proposed revision of that language and concurs that many stands classified as nonhabitat would benefit from silvicultural treatment. Such treatment should be designed so that it will accelerate or enhance development of habitat as stated in your letter.

We concur with your proposed revision. Please contact Bill Vogel at (360) 753-4367, if we can be of assistance as you identify appropriate timber stands and silvicultural techniques to be used. We hope this provides you with the requested flexibility in stands which are nonhabitat, but are within the listed owl circles. Thank you for your continued coordination in the implementation of the DNR Habitat Conservation Plan.

Sincerely,

*Gerry A. Jackson*  
Gerry A. Jackson, Manager  
Western Washington Office

wv/sp



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

JENNIFER M. BELCHER  
*Commissioner of Public Lands*

**MEMORANDUM**

March 1, 2000

TO: DNR Region Managers  
DNR Division Managers

FROM: Don Krupp,  
Deputy Supervisor  
Resource Management

SUBJECT: HCP Implementation Documentation and Reporting

Proper implementation of the HCP is critical for compliance with the HCP Implementation Agreement and to fulfill the Department's requirements under the Incidental Take Permit. The Implementation Agreement and Incidental Take Permit require proper implementation, documentation and reporting. As of January 1, 1999, the Department was required to be in compliance with HCP commitments.

The binder titled HCP IMPLEMENTATION DOCUMENTATION contains all current implementation documentation forms and additional guidance for fulfilling documentation requirements. The HCP Annual Report to the Services, coinciding with the fiscal year calendar, includes documentation of "reportable activities". Guidelines and requirements for this HCP commitment are included in the binder. Checklists and Management Activity Summaries will be available electronically.

The Department must comply with HCP documentation and reporting requirements. Implement the information provided with this memorandum, according to the following schedule:

- Beginning with July sales, Timber Sales including roads contracts use forms and procedures identified in HCP IMPLEMENTATION DOCUMENTATION,

(page 2 Don Krupp 3/1/2000)

- Beginning March 10, 2000, all non-timber management activities and programs and all non-contract road work are to use the forms and documentation guidelines and procedures identified in HCP IMPLEMENTATION DOCUMENTATION,
- Beginning March 10, 2000, the Services must be updated on all "reportable" non-timber activities every quarter. Regions report quarterly to the HCP Coordinator.
- Implementation monitoring is required, according to the MONITORING MATRIX, with fiscal year results due during July. Report annual results to the HCP Coordinator.

The HCP is a complex, innovative land management program, based on adaptive management practices. In a similar adaptive management process, implementation documentation forms, guidance and procedures will change over time as we progress with the Department's land management efforts.

I appreciate and value the concerns and commitments that each of you bring to our work with the HCP. I ask the Region Managers to facilitate moving this effort forward. Please contact me, Michael Perez-Gibson, Rick Cooper, or Peggy Murphy for further information.

cc: Kaleen Cottingham  
Paul Silver

## **HISTORY: FY2000 DOCUMENTS**

- **Correspondence, 10/14/99, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**  
**Issue:** HCP qualifies as a comprehensive plan under Federal Power Act, regarding hydropower projects
- **Correspondence, 2/29/00, USDepartment of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**Issue:** HCP language revision to enhance habitat through silviculture treatment
- **Memorandum, 3/1/00, Department of Natural Resources,**  
**Issue:** Fulfillment of HCP requirement for implementation documentation and reporting process

## **HISTORY of REPORTING AGREEMENTS**

### **OVERVIEW:**

The Implementation Agreement (IA) for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) was formally entered into by DNR and the federal services involved the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) at a signing ceremony held on January 30, 1997. The IA describes various reports required from DNR to the federal services, including an annual summary report of management activities conducted, an annual report on land transaction activities, an evaluation of non-timber activities compared to the level of those activities conducted in 1996 (recognized in the HCP as a *de minimis* level), and a schedule for these reports. The IA recognizes that the schedule for these reports can be modified with agreement of the three parties (DNR, USFWS and NMFS).

### **REPORTING AGREEMENTS, as of the FY2000 HCP Annual Report**

The following agreements regarding the HCP reporting process reflect joint decisions reached during the FY2000 reporting period:

- The Decadal age-class projections, termed the Future Forest Conditions Chart, do not reflect accurate forest inventory information. These charts are no longer produced. The expected re-calculation of the sustainable harvest information will potentially alter the projections developed in 1996.
- Discussion at the HCP Annual Meeting clarified that the “need to amend is triggered” by a increase in “the level of impacts” to covered species. The Annual Report will include any HCP amendment activities for the reporting period.
- It was decided, during a discussion of “stand structure” and “dispersal definition”, that a letter to and from the Services can change the definitions in the HCP. Letters of this nature will be included in the Annual Report for the reporting period.
- A new chapter in the HCP Annual Report, titled Adaptive Management, will be added to the Annual Report when data is available.
- The Transactions’ maps, as produced up to this point in time, do not provide the observer with the appropriate information. The size of the parcels typically involved are not amenable to small maps. Changes will be covered in the 5-year meeting, in whatever format the participants determine to be appropriate.

**REPORTING AGREEMENTS, as of FY1999 HCP Annual Report:** The HCP Annual Report to the Services for FY1999 builds on reporting agreements regarding format and contents that were reached during the initial reporting period. During calendar year 1999, the Department and the Services continued to collaborate on data presentations, focusing on developing appropriate and efficient reporting systems. Information needs, presentation format and chapter headings for the Annual Report were agreed upon during regularly scheduled meetings.

**Report Format:** During the August 1999 meeting, the Services requested and DNR agreed that:

- ☐ Data is presented both in enumerations, as in FY1998 Report, and in summary charts, and
- ☐ Transactions maps showing acres moved out of HCP and acres acquired in HCP are included,
- ☐ Future Reports will not reprint the Implementation Monitoring plan. The Annual Report will present monitoring results and changes to the Implementation Monitoring plan. The Implementation Monitoring Plan, in the FY1998 Annual Report, was approved by the Services.

**Report Date:** In October 1999, both DNR and the Services agreed the October target completion date for the Annual Report was not feasible, due to fiscal year-end data gathering and reporting schedules for DNR systems. It was agreed that the Annual Report will require considerable time for documentation, completion and mutual approval during the start-up years of the HCP.

**Annual Report Schedule Change:** Developing and internally approving the first HCP Annual Report took a significant period of time for several reasons. These reasons include staff vacations, fire season, data reporting schedules in the regions and divisions, and the time for developing narrative for a Department-wide publication. Completing the initial report took over a year even though the HCP compliance requirements applied to only half the fiscal year, beginning January 1999, and the report was quite simple. A refinement of the reporting process was suggested and agreed to as a solution to both the Services' need to have the year-end data in a timely manner, and the Department's inherent difficulties completing and producing a significant publication. The HCP ANNUAL REPORT explains to DNR stakeholders, and preserves for the record, the complexities of each fiscal year's HCP activities.

**New Format for FY1999:** The HCP Annual Report for FY1999 reflects review by the Services of the draft FY1999 data and summary charts. The completed HCP ANNUAL REPORT with DATA & DOCUMENTATION volume contains narratives, summary charts and the supporting statistical enumerations of reportable data identified in the HCP and the Implementation Agreement. This document reflects negotiated reporting format, content and chapter headings.

**Annual Report Format and Schedules:** The basic data reporting requirements and summary charts that the Services need can be produced, under normal circumstances, for the Annual Meeting that occurs in late November or early December. At this meeting the parties review all of the year's activities. Subsequently, DNR can develop the narrative presentations that explain the HCP data for stakeholders, including the Legislature. The Department's intent is to produce a narrative summary version for general publication, and an expanded complete report that includes data, documentation, summaries and narratives. The parties agreed at the Annual Meeting on November 17, 1999, that this approach is a practical solution for resolving inherent reporting time constraints and complexities.



**Summarizing**, the Services receive the fiscal year data summary charts and required statistical enumerations at the Annual Meeting. Later, the Department adds both the narrative explaining the data for the lay audience, and develops a summary report of the year's HCP activities and accomplishments. The completed HCP ANNUAL REPORT with DATA & DOCUMENTATION volume contains all HCP reporting materials for the fiscal year. A summary version of the HCP ANNUAL REPORT contains summary charts and narrative developed for a lay audience. This approach is subject to change.

Specifically, the HCP ANNUAL REPORT with DATA & DOCUMENTATION for FY1999 includes:

- Chapter 1--- Information on DNR's management planning objectives under the HCP,
- Chapter 2--- Identification of timber, non-timber, and road-related management activities,
- Chapter 3--- Evaluation of non-timber activities compared to the 1996 baseline,
- Chapter 4--- Updates on HCP implementation and compliance monitoring,
- Chapter 5 --- Progress reports on development and implementation of effectiveness and validation monitoring, and the research plan,
- Chapter 6 --- Land base: information regarding changes/corrections to the HCP land base.

Attachment I---- History of Reporting Agreements

Attachment II --- Notable Documents for the Reporting Period

APPENDIX A: Silviculture/harvest activities data

APPENDIX B: Significant non-timber activities data

APPENDIX C: Road management activities data

APPENDIX D: Land data, Transactions data

APPENDIX E: FY1999 and Decadal forest structure/age class projections

**Future Forest Conditions:** The HCP ANNUAL REPORT with DATA & DOCUMENTATION for FY1999 includes charts identifying age-class inventory for each region and for the Olympic Experimental State Forest. These charts also detail the results of the sustainable harvest calculation that was adopted by the Board of Natural Resources in November 1996. The ANNUAL REPORT for FY1998, discussing the sustainable harvest output, cautioned that:

...It must be remembered that the numbers involved in this process are the results of a modeling process.

It is expected that, with more detailed information, improved models, better understanding of limitations of the assumptions used in the modeling, and other data refinements these numbers will be modified in future sustainable harvest modeling efforts.. (FY1998 HCP ANNUAL REPORT, P 2).

During FY2001, the Department will update and revise the 1996 sustainable harvest calculation. The new information will more accurately reflect current forest inventory and habitat constraints and requirements. Therefore, the detailed statistics in the FY1999 Future Forest Conditions charts will change in subsequent Annual Reports. The conservation strategies of the HCP are commitments for DNR. The forest structures that result from the conservation strategies will only change as a result of mutual agreements, scientific improvements or through other appropriate mechanisms.

**Adaptive Management Activities:** This chapter will be added to the ANNUAL REPORT, as agreed upon with the Services at the August 1999 quarterly meeting. There are no adaptive management

activities identified for FY1999. Adaptive management activities are anticipated for the FY2000 reporting period.

**Written agreements and significant documents:** Documents developed between the parties, and other documents significant to the HCP developed during the reporting period will be attached to the HCP ANNUAL REPORT with DATA & DOCUMENTATION for FY1999. The complete HCP ANNUAL REPORT with DATA & DOCUMENTATION for FY1999 will be filed with the Services, and available for review in Olympia and each Region office.

#### **REPORTING AGREEMENTS, as of FY1998**

**Combined Report:** Negotiations between the Department and the Services during the July 1997 to June 1998 period resulted in agreements regarding the format and timing of reporting requirements identified in the Implementation Agreement. The result of those negotiations is the combined Annual Report to the Services, which is based on the Department's fiscal year, July 1 to June 30. The revised schedule differs from that described in the IA in that:

- all the required reports will be combined into a single Annual Report,
- the reporting period for each Annual Report will coincide with DNR's fiscal year,
- the combined Annual Report will be provided to the federal services each October, or earlier.

**Reporting Schedule:** It took a substantial period of time for DNR and the Services to mutually agree on format and contents for the first Annual HCP Report to the Services, for the period January 1997 through June 1998. The first approved Annual HCP Report was completed well after the anticipated reporting date of October 1998. DNR and the Services agreed that reporting format and content changes in future HCP Annual Reports will likely prevent completion by October, following the end of DNR's fiscal year.

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